

WOMAN'S PAGE



THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

Debt of Gratitude Great Britain Owes to Queen Victoria's Mother.

London, June 12.—The celebration of the completion of the sixtieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, on June 20, is an occasion when the fiercest demagogue or most radical republican can temporarily forget his opposition to government by kings and queens, and do honor to the venerable woman whose long and virtuous life has done so much for the peace and prosperity of her own people, as well as the world at large. The simple tastes of Queen Victoria, her domestic traits and her love for a quiet home life, have made her personally popular with the majority of the residents of the United States, no matter how strained at times might be the diplomatic relations between this country and Great Britain. The fact that she has been a model daughter, wife and mother has won for her the respect and esteem of every father and mother in the civilized world, many of whom would otherwise take little interest in the fact that hereinafter has been the most glorious and eventful in the history of the English people.

When William IV died and the little Princess Victoria, then only eighteen years old, was called to the throne of Great Britain, comparatively little was known of her nature and capabilities, owing to the seclusion in which her girlhood was passed, and the leading statesmen of the country feared that this inexperienced young woman might prove to be as frivolous in disposition and as undecided in character as most persons of her age.

There was a general feeling of relief throughout England when it was found that the young Queen possessed a determined, resolute nature, a mind trained to perform understandingly the duties of her exalted position, and a character firmly grounded in the principles of morality and justice. The credit of it all was justly given to the widowed mother of the Queen, and to this day the British nation has never forgotten the debt of gratitude it owes to the Duchess of Kent for the happy result of the thoughtfulness, perseverance, self-denial and practical common sense which she displayed in the education of the future sovereign.

The Duke of Kent died on January 23, 1820, when the little Princess Victoria was only eight months old, leaving his widow in straitened circumstances. The duchess was then a handsome woman of thirty-three years, of amiable disposition, attractive manners, and fond of society, and if she chose to do so, could easily have taken a prominent place in the fast and pleasure-loving set that controlled the British court in those days. Fortunately for the English people, the duchess of Kent fully appreciated the importance of the duty which devolved upon her, when, after her husband's death, she found herself in sole charge of the probable successor to the throne. She then determined to devote the best years of her life wholly to the task of molding the unformed character of her little daughter into that shape and strength that best fitted the future queen for the responsible position she was destined to fill.

The duchess's fitness for the task was well understood by her husband, as was evidenced by the following clauses in his will: "I do nominate, constitute, and appoint my beloved wife, Victoria, Duchess of Kent, to be the sole guardian of my said child, the Princess Alexandra Victoria, to all intents and for all purposes whatsoever."

Knowing, as she did, that the moral atmosphere of the court of George IV was not favorable to the furtherance of her plans for the proper education of her child, the duchess sent herself up in the old palace at Kensington, where, for seventeen years, she and the youthful princess, passed a life of almost complete seclusion. Too household was regulated in a severely simple but most judicious manner. The family breakfasted at 8 o'clock, the Princess Victoria, or, if absent, as she was then called, having her bread and milk and fruit on a table by her mother's side. Then came an hour's walk or drive, after which two hours were devoted to her instruction by the duchess personally. Then came recreation until 2 o'clock, when a plain luncheon was served, followed by two hours' more instruction. A visit or drive preceded an early supper, after which, on fine evenings, they all sat out on the lawn under the trees until 9 o'clock, when the princess went to bed. So passed the even tenor of Victoria's early life in Kensington palace. Little knowledge of the outer world came into the home circle of the duchess while her child was being reared in the laws of physical health, in knowledge and in the principles of virtue and common Christianity.

In Victoria's twelfth year, George IV died, and was succeeded by William IV, and then she became the heiress presumptive to the throne. Even under those circumstances her careful mother did not permit Victoria to be present at the coronation, ostensibly because her health necessitated a trip to the Isle of Wight, but really because the duchess believed the child was too young to be present at a scene where she would, necessarily, have to take a conspicuous part. The wise mother was aware, however, that the time had come for her daughter's knowledge of books to be supplemented by intercourse with superior minds, and she adopted the practice of inviting to Kensington travelers, men of science, and other persons prominent in the intellectual world, from whom the Princess Victoria might gather information not readily found in books.

The result of all this care and devotion on the part of the Duchess of Kent was that on June 20, 1837, when the mes-

sage was brought to Kensington palace that her daughter and pupil was Queen of England; that daughter was ready and prepared for the trying and anxious duties which were thus laid upon her young shoulders.

The Duchess of Kent gave up everything in order to qualify her daughter for her exalted position, and she was repaid in that which a mother most prizes—filial reverence and affection. A grateful proof of this filial love was the fact that the Queen paid all her father's debts out of her first year's income, and from her second she discharged all the financial obligations which the Duchess of Kent had incurred in meeting the innumerable heavy calls upon her as the mother of the future sovereign. The Queen's affection for her mother was always intense. In 1840, when an attempt was made upon her life, the Queen altered the course of her drive, and went at once to inform her mother that she was injured, before the duchess could be needlessly alarmed by the rumor of the shooting.

The Duchess of Kent died at Frogmore house, near Windsor Castle, on March 23, 1861, and a leading London paper, in commenting upon her life, said:

"We can, perhaps, better appreciate the worth to this empire of her fidelity to her trust than it was possible for her to do. We feel more sensibly than she could what a new safeguard her success has thrown around the sanctity of our homes. For our wives and daughters' sakes we have reason enough to be thankful that proficiency finds a counterbalance in the court, and that their purity of heart is exposed to none of those shocks which it is so often fated to sustain when vice walks unabashed in the highest places in society. When the Duchess of Kent shut herself up at Kensington to devote her best energies to the education of a daughter and a queen, she little thought, perhaps, that she was laying not only Great Britain, but the world, under lasting obligations. The light in which constitutional monarchy has been placed by the virtues of her daughter, has, probably, taught more than one absolute sovereign the truth, even if he refuse to give it practical recognition, that the surest basis of the throne is laid in the respect and affection of its subjects."

TRAVELING FOR WOMEN.

The Many Discomforts They Meet With in Sleeping Cars.

She had just returned from the far West and said she was tired.

"You shouldn't mind a few thousand miles of travel in these days of luxurious railroad accommodation," said he, childishly.

"It's all very well for a man to say that," she retorted, "but if you were a woman, you'd know that these accommodations aren't all they might be. I thought that America was supposed to be a country where the comfort of women is considered first, last and between times, but after a couple of nights on a Pullman sleeper and two on a Wagner car I've changed my mind."

"Have you come back with a sleeping car story? They're always funny," said the man, settling himself in his chair as if prepared to enjoy a good thing.

"No, I have only a passenger's complaint. Thanks to a good digestion and an easy conscience, I can sleep anywhere when the time for slumber rolls around, but I can't get dressed without a stand for operations that is big enough to stand on."

"Will you please tell me why," she went on, when a sleeping car is built a commodious apartment is set aside at one end of the car for men, while a little two by four corner at the other end is all that is allotted women for a toilet-room. The men nearly always have plenty of space in which to move about and four or five good sized wash basins with a proportionately good supply of water and soap.

But in the women's toilet-room there are, at the most, two washstands and two mirrors, and often there is but one of a kind. "It is all one woman with long hair and a flaring skirt can do to dress in such a cubbyhole, but get three women, or even two in the place, and it is a comedy of horrors to the black hole of Calcutta. Every time the long-haired woman draws a comb through her tresses she runs the risk of breaking the mirror and incidentally puncturing out the eyes of the other occupants. Usually she gives up, and flattens herself meekly against the wall, saying: 'I'll wait until you are through.'"

"There was a bride in my car the other day. She wanted to look beautiful, of course, and so she was anxious to have her hair curled properly. It wasn't the kind of hair that does its own curling, and it had a little alcohol lamp with her and was attempting to heat a pair of tongs over its blue flame. The poor girl was just on the point of tears when I appeared. She had been there a long time, but had been so bumped and pushed and crowded by other women that she hadn't made much progress in her dressing. She had scorching her hair and burnt her forehead, and a draft from the opening door had put out her alcohol flame. 'O, dear! I must get some more matches from my husband,' she said, and I knew from her husband and from the way she worded 'my husband' that in her throat that it was probably the first time she had ever uttered them to a stranger.

"It isn't so bad in the winter, but in the summer time, when it is difficult to keep cool and clean under the best conditions, women positively suffer when traveling."

"The first thing a woman does on entering a sleeper is to count the number

of women and children present, and make her plans accordingly. There is a difference of opinion as to whether it is better to descend on the toilet room early or late. There are disadvantages about both plans. It is simply impossible to get ahead of the woman who is always there first. She is a disagreeable person, who

cheat and shoulderblades in straight position. Repeat this, bending back and forth many times, bringing the body each time back again to the perpendicular.

No. 5. Lie down on the chest, keep the feet on the floor, and raise the head and shoulders up as far as possible, repeating many times. Indeed, all these exercises, to be of any value, must be repeated, but not to the length of fatigue.

No. 6. Stand erect, with the arms hanging down and the palms against the body, with the muscles of the arm and hand as tense as possible; then turn the arms outward, making a strong pull with the shoulder blade muscles; then relax slowly and bring the arms back to the original position. There is no faster movement than this for strengthening the muscles in the neighborhood of the shoulder blades.

No. 7. Sit erect, raise the arms, keeping the muscles well stretched, and circle up and down; to make the movement of more force and still further employ the shoulder blade muscles, wriggle with the palms up.

Perhaps five or six times one should go through the entire seven movements twice daily, as each to be of any benefit, requires many repetitions. It may be best then, to

DUTY OF GUESTS TO HOSTS.

Too many women accept the hospitality of their friends in the expectation of being entertained without contributing in the least toward the entertainment of others. Their selfishness is often the cause of embarrassment if not of positive annoyance to those who may form the company, and especially to the hostess, who, no matter what her accomplishments may be, is incapable of doing single-handed what should be the care of every person present. A woman of much experience in society, commenting upon this phase of the gatherings in a large city, says:

"I have seen the most gracious and thoughtful hostess try for an entire evening to persuade a guest to sing or play, without gaining her point, some half laughing and wholly insincere refusal, such as 'Oh, I am sure they do not want to hear me,' or, 'Oh, do excuse me, I am so out of practice,' suffering to relieve the young woman's mind from any sense of obligation to reciprocate the constant flow of thoughtful kindness which was making every hour delightful. Sometimes a brief time occupied by delightful music will

an assumed palsy of manner. One woman purses up her lips, another screws her eyes into unnaturalness, while a third will wrinkle up her forehead and eyebrows until she looks absolutely ugly. The trick is an unconscious one, but it is none the less a trick and a bad one. There is no reason why a woman should look forbidding and had-tempered just because she is annoyed about something. Deep-seated trouble has a way of writing itself upon the face whether we will or not. Sickness, too, has its own handwriting and will not be concealed by art; but the frown caused by superficial troubles should not be entertained by the face for an instant. We should strive to look as pleasant as possible for the sake of others; a corresponding cheerfulness of temperament will inevitably result and always to the sweetening of our nature."

We cannot afford to go about with gloomy faces. To depress others is not for our work is to cheer, to raise up, to comfort, but we shall never do this unless we cultivate a pleasant demeanor and the cheerful temper inseparable from it. This brings us to that question of worry. Can we put it more strongly than to say that

FREAK OF THE DAY.

What Our Overworked Society Women Have to Contend With.

"I must positively go somewhere where I will have a complete rest this summer," said Mrs. Multifarious to her husband. "I am completely worn out, and the doctor says I must absolutely have a let-up from all harassing occupations."

"Why, Milly," said her denser half, "what on earth have you to do but amuse yourself? You keep house, to be sure, but you have plenty of servants, and if I do not grumble about the bills I do not see why that should worry you. The children are healthy and well enough behaved, and you can employ your time in any way you like. I really do not see what you have to 'worry' you out, as you say."

"I'm sure, John, I cannot understand how you can say such a thing," said the lady, greatly incensed. "You men cannot begin to realize a woman's work. If you had the brain upon you that I have, I do not believe that you could endure it a week. Just to give you a sample I will tell you what I had to do yesterday. In the first place, when I came down to breakfast I found a tremendous pile of letters at my plate—two invitations for dinner from equally desirable places for the same evening—and from Lily A. asking me to lunch on a 15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-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